



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

08/573,519 12/15/95 TAKIGUCHI

H 862.1336

EXAMINER

005514 LM02/0829
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK NY 10112

JANKUS, A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2772

DATE MAILED:

08/29/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

573519

Applicant(s)

TAKIGUCHI

Examiner

JANKUS

Group Art Unit

2772

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/12/00
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5-20, 22-34, 110-114, 126, 128-134 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1, 110, 111, 125, 126, 128 is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 5-20, 22-34, 112-114, 129-134 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
 - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

SERIAL NUMBER 08/573519

ART UNIT 2772

1. The request filed on 06/12/00 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 08/573,519 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

2. Claims 5-20, 22-34, 112-114, 129-134 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strasnick et al.

With respect to claim 5, Strasnick et al. Teaches the claimed linked data display method, where the linked data is taught as hierarchical data and directed data; first data and second data being linked in the hierarchy; and, displayed mutually distinguishably by determining sizes thereof according to a distance of a linkage, by using the zoom feature which distinguishes the size between close and distant data, where the distance is associated with the linkage.

The whole patent describes the claimed invention in detail, with the zoom feature being detailed at column 9. Of particular importance is that Strasnick et al. zooms or navigates through an information landscape, i.e., a three-dimensional graphic space which represents any type of hierarchical or related data, which any type of data can mapped to the information landscape.

With respect to claim 5, Strasnick et al. teaches displaying data items included within a similar

level of linkage position in a substantially same size, at figure 5B where each level of the tree is displayed at a particular distance, and within a level the data items are of substantially the same size; and displaying first and second data items linked to the first data items which are not included within the similar level of linkage position, mutually distinguishably in different sizes determined according to a distance of a linkage between the first and second data, at figure 5B, where the child nodes being a further distance from their parents are at a different level and are of a different size.

While Strasnick et al. may not explicitly teach the displaying simultaneously feature, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to consider this displaying as simultaneous because a CRT display presents image faster than the human perception can distinguish.

With respect to the claimed feature that an interval of time is the distance of a linkage, Strasnick et al. teaches that the user may represent any underlying relationship he desires to express a 3D graphical display space, at column 5, with several suggestions which imply an interval of time as the distance. At column 7, lines 62-64, Strasnick et al. teaches functionality which enables users to observe changes over time, for example quarterly sales data. At column 5 lines 10-15, Strasnick et al teaches connectors connecting parents and children. This suggests a genealogy in a 3D space with the connectors representing time periods between generations. The time periods between generations can also be considered accumulated time which is hierarchical. Each item of the display having an intrinsic time such as a quarterly time for quarterly sales data whose size corresponds to the time as described above and below. The requirement of different sizes at different times simply corresponds to the Zooming taught by Strasnick et al. at column 9. Zooming changes the size, and time is inherent in change. Thus, the limitation of a first size

changing to a second size corresponding to a temporal direction is merely a definition of Zooming, and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention.

While Strasnick et al. explicitly teaches hierarchical and directed data, as outlined above, it is noted that time-series is not explicitly taught. Official Notice is taken that both the concept and the advantages of providing for displays which include the time-series data items accumulated time-sequentially and displayed according to temporal distance are consistent, or inherent in directed graph data, which is taught by Strasnick et al. at column 22 lines 35-37. 3. Further, Strasnick et al. more directly implies this feature at column 23 with the teaching of first through fourth quarters, which are a time-series. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use time series because directed graph data was commonly used for time scheduling, and time management.

Claim 21 is similar to claim 5 but requires correspondence to a schedule table. Strasnick et al. teaches these structures at column 22.

Claim 22 is similar to claim 21 but requires a retrieving means. Strasnick et al. this at columns 2-3.

Claim 35 is similar to claim 21 and is rejected under a similar rationale.

Claims 112 and 115 are similar to claims 22 and 21 respectively, and are rejected under similar


rationales.

Claims 6-20, 23-34, 113, 114, and 129-134 further require features specific to navigating through a three-dimensional graphic space, including changing sizes according to distance, which is taught by Strasnick et al.

3. Claims 1, 110, 111, 125, 126, and 128 are allowed.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Almis Jankus whose telephone number is (703) 305-9795. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 5.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.



ALMIS R. JANKUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

AJ

August 24, 2000

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Jul P. Diana

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 190498 v 1